

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 119280

R 181519Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2483

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION BEGINS PROBE OF INSTITUTE OF
RACE RELATIONS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 215 AND 239; CAPE TOWN A-12

1. SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION OPENED ITS INVESTIGATION OF INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS IN PRETORIA JULY 16. INDICATIONS ARE THAT SOME INSTITUTE STAFF MEMBERS WILL REFUSE TO TESTIFY AND THUS RISK GOING TO JAIL.

2. UPON COMPLETING ITS INVESTIGATION OF NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (FINAL REPORT ON NUSAS WILL BE ISSUED LATER THIS YEAR), SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION DIVIDED INTO TWO SUB-GROUPS, ONE TO INVESTIGATE RACE RELATIONS INSTITUTE, OTHER THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE (CI). RACE RELATIONS SUB-GROUP, HEADED BY LOUIS LE GRANGE (NATIONALIST MP, POTCHEFSTROOM) AND COMPOSED OF DR. GEORGE DE V. MORRISON (NATIONALIST, CRADOCK), DR. D.J.D. VAN DER WALT (NATIONALIST, CHRISTIANA), LIONEL MURRAY (UNITED PARTY, GREEN POINT) AND ETIENNE MALAN (UP, ORANGE GROVE), BEGAN ITS PROCEEDINGS IN PRETORIA JULY 16.

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CI SUB-GROUP, HEADED BY SCHLEBUSCH HIMSELF, EXPECTED TO

BEGIN WORK IN AUGUST.

3. LE GRANGE HAS SENT LETTER TO RACE RELATIONS INSTITUTE INVITING STAFF TO GIVE EVIDENCE AND COOPERATE VOLUNTARILY WITH COMMISSION. HE TOLD PRESS THAT SUBPOENAS WOULD BE ISSUED IF HIS INVITATION IS REFUSED.

4. DIRECTOR OF RACE RELATIONS INSTITUTE, FRED VAN WYK, IS REPORTED TO HAVE NOTIFIED COMMISSION THAT INSTITUTE STAFF WOULD NOT COOPERATE VOLUNTARILY, THUS CLEARING WAY FOR ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS. IN ANSWER TO PRESS INQUIRIES, HE HAS REITERATED INSTITUTE'S POSITION AUTHORIZING STAFF MEMBERS TO TESTIFY IF COMPELLED DO SO BY SUBPOENA. THAT POSITION LEAVES IT TO INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS, UPON RECEIVING SUBPOENAS, TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO COOPERATE WITH COMMISSION. VAN WYK DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER HE WOULD COOPERATE. ORDINARY MEMBERS OF INSTITUTE, AS AGAINST STAFFERS, MAY DO AS THEY WISH IF CALLED TO TESTIFY.

5. REFUSAL TO ACCEDE TO SUBPOENA IS AN OFFENSE CARRYING PENALTY OF R 100 FINE OR SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT. INDICATIONS ARE THAT SOME STAFF PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE WILL CHOOSE BRUSH WITH LAW RATHER THAN COOPERATE. SOME CI AND NUSAS STAFFEERS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO REFUSE THEIR COOPERATION IF AND WHEN ASKED TO TESTIFY.
HURD

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